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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR JULY 1988 October 1988

District July Employment Highest in 17 Years

D.C. Unemployment Rate Below U.S.

Labor Force

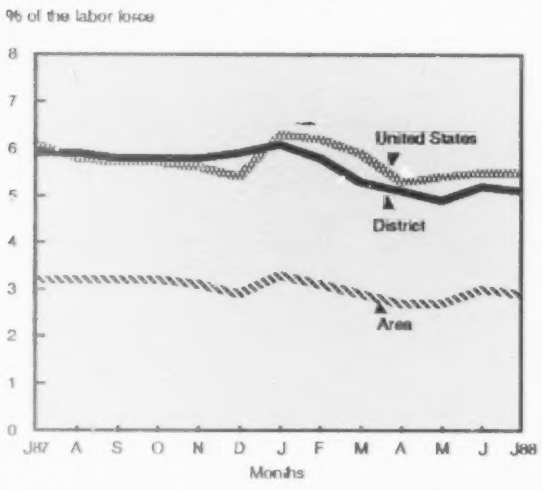
The District

During July, 13, 800 additional District residents entered the labor force of which 13,500 found jobs. Thus, the District's job market was able to successfully absorb a large influx of seasonal workers, thanks in large part to the City's summer youth employment effort. As a result, the District's unemployment rate declined marginally from 5.2 percent in June to 5.1 percent in July.

Unemployment among workers across the United States averaged 5.5 percent (seasonally unadjusted) for July, the same as in June. So the District's rate was once again below that for the Nation, as it has been for all of this year.

Over the past 18 years, the July unemployment rate in the City has averaged 8.0 percent. Thus, this year's rate was significantly lower than the longterm experience for the month. In fact, the 1988 July rate was the lowest rate for the month in 17 years, since the 3.6 percent registered in July 1971. **This July also produced the highest number of working residents (339,900) for the month since the 359,700 employed in the summer of 1971.**

Unemployment Rates
July 1987 - July 1988



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Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Director

The Department of Employment Services

Working to keep Washington working.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR JULY 1988 OCTOBER 1988

Contents

Labor Force
- *District* 1
- *Area & Suburbs* 3
- *Characteristics of UI Applicants* 5

Job Growth
- *District* 5
- *Suburbs* 5
- *Area* 6
- *Growth Rates* 9

Special Article
- *Labor Force Profile: Employment Ratios of Selected Washington Area Worker's--Potential Sources of New Workers* 10

Unemployment Rates
- *Metropolitan Areas* 13
- *States* 13
- *Selected Cities* 14

Departments
- *Unemployment Insurance Activities* 15
- *Consumer Price Index* 17
- *Hours & Earnings* 18

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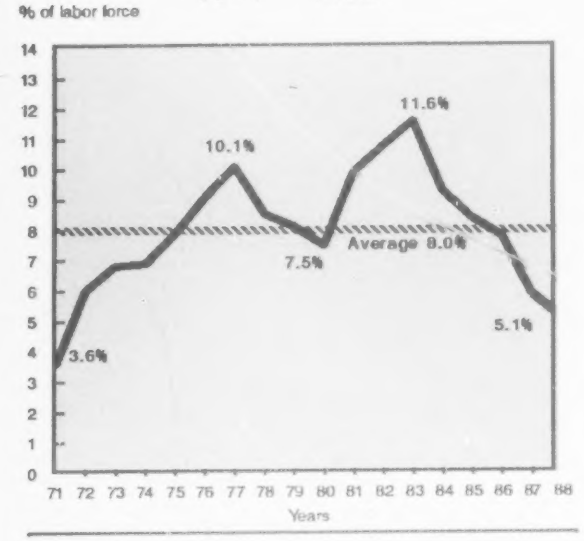
Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling: (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

Continued from page 1

Over the past year (July 1987 to July 1988), the unemployment rate has fallen nearly a full percent (0.8 percentage point), with 10,000 additional residents on the job and 2,400 fewer unemployed, a sizeable 11.5 percent reduction in the number of jobless workers. The monthly estimate continued the five-year recovery from the record high rate set in July 1983 of 11.6 percent, and statistically demonstrates the fundamental strength of that recovery. However, despite the lowering of unemployment, there may still be significant underemployment in the market. For example, the Department recently supported hiring by the Department of Human Services with a Saturday Job-A-Thon. Over 12,000 jobseekers responded. Most were employed. Thus, there were many employed workers seeking to upgrade their current job status.

District Unemployment Rates in the Month of July 1971 - 1988



The Area & Suburbs

In July, the suburban labor force also showed a seasonal increase, but interestingly, the 7,000 person increase in suburban workers was only about half as large as the 13,800 increase in the District. Similarly, most of the Area's employment growth between June and July also occurred in the District, as the City added 13,500 new workers, while the suburbs gained 7,700. Another statistical indication of the size and importance of the District's summer youth employment effort.

Over the year (July 1987 to July 1988), the Washington Metropolitan Area added 108,800 new workers to its payrolls, 91 percent of whom were residents of the suburbs. On the other side of the ledger, there were 3,800 fewer Area jobless workers than a year earlier. **Most of the**

Continued on page 4

Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County

	July[a/] 1988	June[b/] 1988	July 1987
District of Columbia	5.1	5.2	5.9
Calvert County	4.6	4.9	4.5
Prince Georges County	3.8	3.7	3.7
Charles County	3.7	3.3	3.2
Frederick County	3.2	2.9	3.7
Montgomery County	2.7	2.7	2.6
Alexandria City	1.9	2.1	2.6
Stafford County	1.8	2.1	2.7
Prince William County	1.8	2.0	2.1
Arlington County	1.6	1.8	2.2
Fairfax County	1.6	1.8	2.1
Manassas Park City	1.6	1.7	1.9
Loudoun County	1.5	1.8	2.0
Fairfax City	1.5	1.8	1.9
Falls Church City	1.4	1.8	2.1
Manassas City	1.3	1.6	1.7

a/ Preliminary.
b/ Revised.

SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Continued from page 3

Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA
July 1988 [a]

	July 1988	June [c] 1988	July [d] 1987	June [d] 1987	Net Change From June 1988	Net Change From July 1987
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	358,200	344,400	350,700	334,100	13,800	7,500
Total Employed	339,900	326,400	329,900	313,200	13,500	10,000
Total Unemployed	18,400	18,000	20,800	21,000	400	-2,400
Unemployment Rate [e]	5.1	5.2	5.9	6.3	-0.1	-0.8
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,903,700	1,896,700	1,806,200	1,802,600	7,000	97,500
Total Employed	1,856,200	1,848,500	1,757,400	1,753,600	7,700	98,800
Total Unemployed	47,400	48,200	48,800	49,000	-800	-1,400
Unemployment Rate [e]	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7	-0.1	-0.2
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,261,900	2,241,100	2,156,900	2,136,700	20,800	105,000
Total Employed	2,196,100	2,174,900	2,087,300	2,066,800	21,200	108,800
Total Unemployed	65,800	66,200	69,600	70,000	-400	-3,800
Unemployment Rate [e]	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.3	-0.1	-0.3

a Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding.
b. Preliminary.
c. Revised.
d. Data reflects Benchmark Revisions.
e. Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

reduction in unemployment (63 percent), however, occurred inside of the District line. As a result of the city/suburban labor market interaction, the Area's unemployment rate declined over the year by three-tenths of a percentage point—from 3.2 percent in July 1987 to 2.9 percent this past July. As of this July, the Washington Area had an available labor supply of approximately 66,000 jobless workers. However, in an economy that added nearly 60,000 new jobs over the past year, this labor pool represents a relatively small supply of potential new workers to fuel both new growth, as well as replacement needs.

Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
July 1988 & July 1987
(percent)

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment
		JULY 1988	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	15.8	15.5	28.0
Suburbs	84.2	84.5	72.0
		JULY 1987	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	15.6	15.0	30.0
Suburbs	84.4	85.0	70.0

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits totalled 8,309 in July 1988—down 396 claimants from June. In July, 52 percent of all UI recipients were males. Occupationally, professional technical and managerial workers comprised 27 percent of the total claimants. Clerical and sales workers accounted for 25 percent, and services workers ranked third registering 22 percent.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 9.4 weeks for all claimants—down from 10.4 weeks in June. Over the month, the duration for males decreased from 10.8 weeks to 9.9 weeks, while that for females declined from 9.9 weeks to 9.1 weeks. In July 1987, the average duration for males was 10.3 weeks and 9.4 weeks for females.

Job Growth

The District

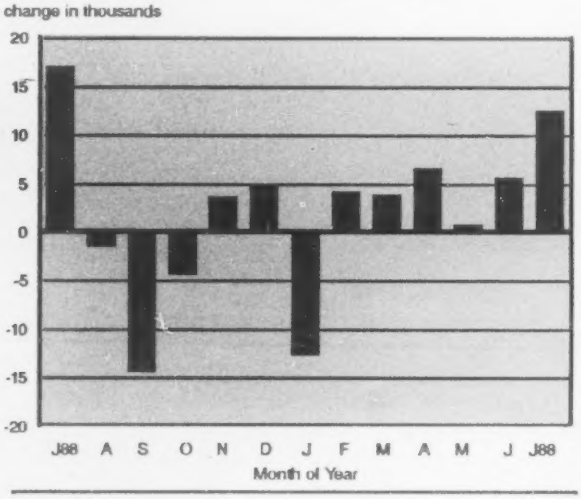
The number of jobs in the District rose seasonally 1.8 percent for a gain of 11,900 jobs. The public sector was responsible for this growth with seasonal gains in State and Local Government (10,600 jobs) and Federal Government (3,600 jobs). The substantial rise in State and Local Government was entirely due to gains in District Government resulting from the hiring of 13,500 youths under the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program.

The private sector declined by 2,200 jobs, with primarily seasonal losses in Services (1,400 jobs) and Trade (500 jobs). The decreased level of business travel occurring at this time of year was primarily responsible for the declines.

Over the year (July 1987 to July 1988), the number of District jobs rose 1.5 percent for a gain of 10,300 jobs. The private sector, growing at a rate of 3.8 percent, created 14,600 jobs with Services contributing 12,100 jobs and accounting for 83 percent of private sector growth. Within Services, the primary job producers were Business Services (3,900 jobs), All Other Services (3,400 jobs), Legal Services (2,100 jobs) and Hotels (1,000 jobs). Retail Trade contributed 1,700 additional private sector jobs.

The public sector declined by 4,300 jobs with losses in both Federal Government (2,900 jobs) and State and Local Government (1,400 jobs).

Monthly Job Growth
The District
July 1987 - July 1988



The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs decreased by 1,900 between June and July. The public sector was responsible for the downturn with seasonal losses in State and Local Government (11,400 jobs) slightly offset by a gain in Federal Government (300 jobs). The Maryland suburbs accounted for 87 percent of the decline in State and Local Government, while the Virginia suburbs were responsible for the gain in Federal Government.

The private sector generated 9,000 jobs with the growth leaders being Construction (2,900

Continued on page 6

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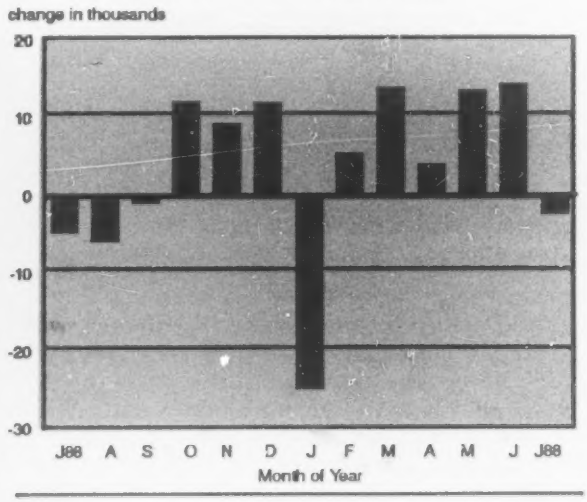
Suburbs

jobs), Services (2,200 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,500 jobs). Sixty-one percent of the combined growth in those industries occurred in the Virginia suburbs as did 95 percent of the growth in Trade (1,200 jobs) and Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (1,000 jobs).

Over the year (July 1987 to July 1988), suburban jobs grew at a rate of 3.4 percent for a gain of 49,400 jobs. **The Virginia suburbs, growing at a rate of 6.3 percent, accounted for 91 percent of suburban growth, while the Maryland suburbs increased at a rate of 0.6 percent.**

The private sector was responsible for 93 percent of suburban job growth with the primary contributors, Services (18,900 jobs) and Trade (13,600 jobs), accounting for 71 percent of new private sector jobs. Eighty-six percent of the combined growth in these two industries occurred in the Virginia suburbs. Significant private sector growth also occurred in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (4,700 jobs), Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (4,500 jobs) and Construction (3,100 jobs) with the Virginia suburbs responsible for 72 percent of the growth in the former and all of the growth in the latter two industries.

Monthly Job Growth
The Suburbs
July 1987 - July 1988



In the public sector, growth in State and Local Government (6,500 jobs) was partially offset by a reduction in Federal Government (3,100 jobs) resulting in a 1.2 percent rate of growth. The Virginia suburbs accounted for 83 percent of the gain in State and Local Government and 61 percent of the loss in Federal Government.

The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area gained 10,000 jobs between June and July for growth of 0.5 percent as a result of the substantial monthly increase in the District. The private sector accounted for 68 percent of the growth with the leading job contributors being Construction (2,500 jobs), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,400 jobs) and Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (1,000 jobs).

In the public sector, seasonally induced growth in Federal Government (3,900 jobs) was partially offset by a seasonal reduction in State and Local Government (800 jobs). The decline in State and Local Government is attributable to substantial seasonal losses in the suburbs negating a sizeable seasonal gain in the District.

Over the year (July 1987 to July 1988), the Area grew at a rate of 2.8 percent for a gain of 59,700 jobs. The private sector, growing at a rate of 3.9 percent, was entirely responsible for area growth. The leading growth contributors, Services (31,000 jobs) and Trade (15,200 jobs), were responsible for 77 percent of all new area jobs. Significant gains also occurred in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (4,900 jobs), Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (4,800 jobs) and Construction (3,000 jobs).

The public sector declined 0.2 percent as growth in State and Local Government (5,100 jobs) was offset by a reduction in Federal Government (6,000 jobs).

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	July [b] 1988	June [c] 1988	July [c] 1987	July [c] 1988	June [c] 1988	July [c] 1987
TOTAL	**685.8**	**673.9**	**675.5**	**2,169.0**	**2,159.0**	**2,109.3**
Total Private Sector	**401.8**	**404.0**	**387.2**	**1,599.9**	**1,593.1**	**1,539.3**
Total Government	**284.0**	**269.9**	**288.3**	**569.1**	**565.9**	**570.0**
Manufacturing	**16.6**	**16.4**	**16.2**	**88.3**	**87.9**	**86.7**
Total Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	42.1	42.0	41.6
Stone, Clay, Glass, and Concrete Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.5	3.4	3.3
Electrical & Electronic Machinery, Equip., & Supp.	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.3	21.3	21.8
All Other Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.3	17.2	16.4
Total Non-Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	46.2	45.9	45.1
Food & Kindred Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.7	5.7	5.7
Printing & Publishing	13.0	12.7	12.4	33.7	33.4	32.5
All Other Non-Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.8	6.7	7.0
All Other Manufacturing	3.7	3.8	3.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mining	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.3**
Construction	**15.5**	**15.9**	**15.6**	**140.2**	**137.7**	**137.2**
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	**25.3**	**25.3**	**25.0**	**107.4**	**106.4**	**102.6**
Railroad	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.1	5.1	5.0
Transportation ex. Railroad	N/A	N/A	N/A	49.6	48.8	45.0
All Transportation	10.2	10.1	9.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Communications & Public Utilities	15.2	15.1	15.3	52.7	52.4	52.5
Trade	**64.4**	**64.9**	**62.8**	**429.6**	**428.9**	**414.4**
Wholesale	8.8	8.9	8.8	75.3	75.6	74.8
Retail	55.6	56.0	53.9	354.2	353.3	339.6
General Merchandise	4.2	4.2	4.0	36.0	36.1	36.4
Food	N/A	N/A	N/A	46.5	45.7	44.8
Automotive	N/A	N/A	N/A	39.7	39.4	38.4
Apparel & Accessories	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.1	27.6	26.0
Eating & Drinking Places	27.7	28.0	26.8	120.1	119.5	111.9
All Other Retail	23.7	23.9	23.1	84.9	85.0	82.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**37.9**	**38.0**	**37.7**	**131.9**	**130.5**	**127.0**
Banking	7.2	7.2	7.2	23.6	23.3	22.2
All Other	30.7	30.8	30.5	108.3	107.2	104.8
Services	**242.0**	**243.4**	**229.9**	**701.3**	**700.5**	**670.3**
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	16.0	17.1	15.0	35.4	36.4	34.6
Personal Services	4.0	4.1	4.0	23.7	23.8	23.5
Business Services	54.0	55.2	50.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Computer & Data Process	4.0	3.9	3.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Services	34.2	33.9	33.3	N/A	N/A	N/A

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	July 1988 [b/]	June 1988 [c/]	July 1987 [c/]	July 1988 [b/]	June 1988 [c/]	July 1987 [c/]
Legal Services	27.5	27.3	25.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Membership Organizations	32.2	31.9	31.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
All Other Services	74.0	73.9	70.6	642.2	640.3	612.2
Government	**284.0**	**269.9**	**288.3**	**569.1**	**565.9**	**570.0**
Federal Government	217.3	213.7	220.2	358.7	354.8	364.7
State & Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	210.4	211.2	205.3
State & Local Gov. Except Public Transportation	61.9	51.3	63.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Transportation	4.8	4.8	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

a. Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. b. Preliminary. c. Revised.

Data includes all full- and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employers
It's that time of year again

Time to think about additional hiring for the Christmas holidays. Why bother with costly advertising, endless telephone calls and interviewing. Let D.C. Employment Services do the work for you. Whether it's one or 100 vacancies, we can save your company valuable time and money with free

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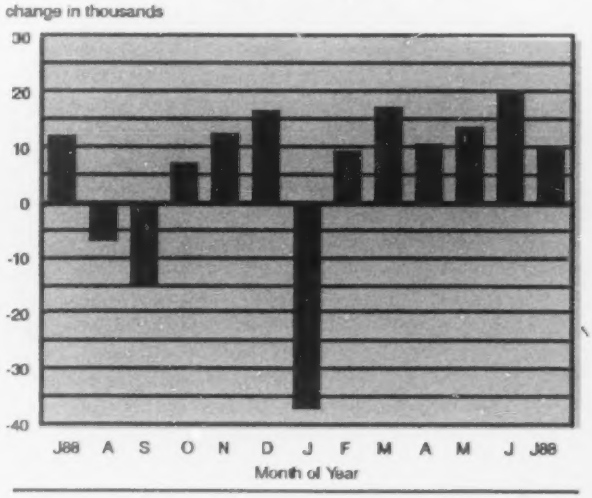
Monthly Job Growth
The Area
July 1987 - July 1988



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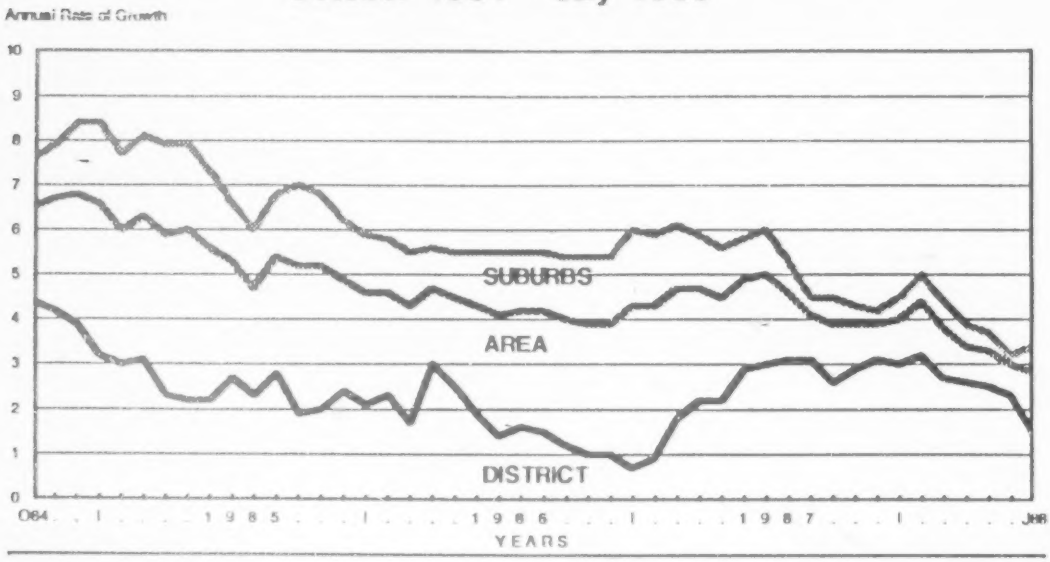
Monthly Over-The-Year Rate of Job Growth
October 1984 - July 1988



Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past 45 months, (October 1984 to July 1988), the Washington Area has created new jobs at a rate of 4.7 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has been steadily declining after peaking at 6.8 percent in December 1984. Between July 1987 and July 1988, the Area's job growth slowed to 2.8 percent—**the slowest over-the-year growth rate during the 45-month period.**

The Suburban portion of the Area is still the generator of most new jobs, having grown over the past year at a rate of 3.4 percent, but at a much slower pace than its 45-month-longterm average of 5.8 percent. Over the past year, the District proper has added new jobs at a rate of 1.5 percent, and like the suburbs, below its 45-month average of 2.4 percent.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from 96,000 new jobs produced between July 1984 and July 1985 to 59,700 between July 1987 and July 1988. Over the past year, 49,400 new jobs were added to the Suburban economy and 10,300 in the District. **The Washington Area is now creating new jobs at a much slower pace than the U.S. economy (2.8 percent versus 3.8 percent for the Nation).**

Profile of Job Growth Rates
October 1984 to July 1988

The Area	
Average 45 months	4.7%
High, December 1984	6.8%
Low, July 1988	2.8%
Current month	2.8%
The Suburbs	
Average 45 months	5.8%
High, January 1985	8.4%
Low, June 1988	3.2%
Current month	3.4%
The District	
Average 45 months	2.4%
High, October 1984	4.4%
Low, January 1987	0.7%
Current month	1.5%

LABOR FORCE PROFILE:

Employment Ratios of Selected Washington Area Workers—Potential Sources of New Workers

In the June edition of the **Area Labor Summary,** staff examined the employment-to-population ratio of the Washington Area in comparison to ratios in the United States, selected metropolitan areas and other central cities. This examination found that the Washington Area had a relatively large number of residents working. Because the Area has a very large proportion of residents working, it also has fewer people available to meet the job expansion needs of the local economy—a tight labor market.

In the September **Area Labor Summary,** staff examined the occupational mix in the Area's pool of unemployed to identify the occupations which might be in short supply. This study showed that unemployment was not concentrated in any particular occupational group, but rather spread across all occupations. Furthermore, while unemployment was more highly concentrated in the District, most of the Area's unemployed live outside the District. Occupationally, the Area labor shortages, as indicated by low unemployment rates, are the severest among higher skilled occupations, such as technicians, executives and managers, and professionals, as well as among administrative and craft workers.

General Employment-to-Population Ratios

The June study indicated that the Washington Area had a very high E/P ratio based on 1986 annual averages. The current profile is based on 1987 annual averages. The data is from the Current Population Survey (CPS) as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in **Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 1987** (BLS Bulletin 2305), April 1988. The 1987 data shows the Washington Area continues to have a very large proportion of its working age population at work:

EMPLOYMENT-TO-POPULATION RATIOS—1987
(annual averages)

Area	Ratio
Washington Suburbs	74.9
Washington Area (MSA)	73.2
The District	65.3
United States	61.5

Thus, the District, the suburbs, and the total Washington Area had 1987 employment - to - population ratios greater than the national average. In order to analyze which demographic groups might provide additional workers for the local economy, we sorted local E/P ratios according to demographic groups that were below the national average, below the District's average, below the Area's average and below and above the suburban average—see table. National E/P demographic ratios were also included in the table for comparison with the local ratios.

Local Groups With E/P Ratios Less Than The U.S. Average

The only local demographic groups with employment ratios below the U.S. average are black women in the District and all teenagers in the metropolitan area. Even though black women in the District have lower E/P ratio than all U.S. workers, they held proportionately more jobs than **U.S. Women, regardless of race.** Similarly, local teenagers are below the general U.S. average, but they also held proportionately more jobs than teenagers nationally. Thus, if the national E/P average represents a kind of statistical standard, then local black women and Area teenagers represent groups with some potential for additional growth in the labor supply, but that potential may be limited in light of the fact that they have already exceeded the national ratios for their individual groups. Given the fact that

Continued on page 11

Labor Force Profile

Continued from page 10

most teenagers are still students, it is questionable if the teenage employment ratio could, or should, rise above the already high level for suburban teenagers in the Washington Area (56.2 percent).

Local Groups With E/P Ratios Below the District Average

If the analytical standard is raised to the District's employment-to-population ratio (65.3 percent), then in addition; to black women and teenagers in the City, there appears to be potential for some additional growth in the labor supply from among the general black population of the District. However, the E/P ratio of the black citizens of the District is already the same as the general U.S. population and already 7 percentage points higher than blacks across the Nation.

Local groups with E/P Ratios Below the Washington Area Average

If the analytical standard is raised again to the level of the Area E/P average where more than seven of every ten persons 16 years old or older already has a job, then additional labor growth might be sought from suburban women, D.C. white women and black men in the District.

Differences in E/P Ratios of District and Suburban Blacks

One of the most striking differences found in the study is the employment-to-population differences between suburban and District black residents. Black males living in the suburbs have the highest E/P ratio of all groups (82.7 percent), while suburban black females have the highest E/P ratio (77.9 percent) of all females in the Area. **This difference between City and suburban blacks arises from their age differential.** The black suburban working age population tends to be much younger and the District's much older. Older residents have much lower E/P ratios, because many are retired and/or living on fixed incomes. In the District, 25.4 percent of the working age population is 55 years of age or older. In the suburbs, the black population 55 plus is only 6.6 percent. Because of this high concentration of older residents, employment-to-population ratios in the District will probably not achieve the same high level as in the suburbs.

Employment-to-Population Ratios
Selected Groups
The United States, The Washington Area, The District & The Suburbs
1987
(annual averages)

Groups	Ratios
Suburban Black Men	82.7
Suburban White Men	82.5
Area White Men	82.3
Suburban Men	82.0
Suburban Blacks	80.3
Area Men	80.2
D.C. White Men	80.2
Area Hispanics	79.9
Suburban Black Women	77.9
Total Suburbs	**74.9**
Area Black Men	74.8
Suburban Whites	74.3
Area Whites	74.2
D.C. Whites	74.2
Total Washington Area	**73.2**
U.S. White Men	*72.7*
U.S. Men	*71.5*
Suburban Women	71.3
Area Blacks	70.9
D.C. Men	70.3
D.C. White Women	68.8
Area Black Women	67.5
Area Women	66.5
Area White Women	66.3
D.C. Black Men	66.1
Suburban White Women	66.1
Total D.C.	**65.3**
U.S. Black Men	*62.0*
D.C. Blacks	61.5
Total United States	**61.5**
D.C. Women	61.2
D.C. Black Women	57.8
Suburban Teens	56.2
U.S. Blacks	*55.6*
Area Teens	52.7
U.S. Women	*52.5*
U.S. Black Women	*50.3*
U.S. Teens	*45.5*
Suburban Black Teens	45.2
Area Black Teens	40.7
D.C. Teens	36.0
D.C. Black Teens	36.0
U.S. Black Teens	*27.1*

SOURCE: Current Population Survey. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment & Unemployment, 1987, Bulletin 2305), April 1988. Suburban estimates derived by LMIR.

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

Black Population Age 55 and Above*
(in thousands)

	population	55+	percent
All Blacks			
Washington Area	639	102	16.0
The District	319	81	25.4
The Suburbs	320	21	6.6
Black Males:			
Washington Area	296	45	15.1
The District	142	34	23.9
The Suburbs	156	11	7.1
Black Females:			
Washington Area	341	57	16.7
The District	178	47	26.4
The Suburbs	163	10	6.1

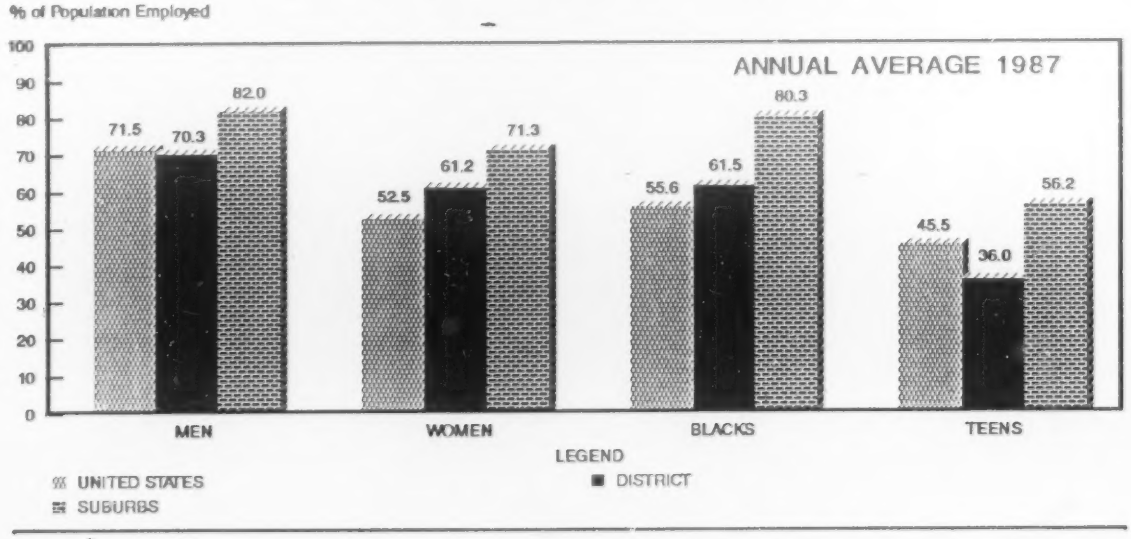
*Noninstitutional population 16 years and above

Source: Current Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Georgraphic Profile of Employment & Unemployment, 1987, (Bulletin 2305), April 1988. Suburban estimates derived by LMIR.

Observations

This review of local demographics statistically reinforces the existence of an extreme tightness in the labor supply in the Washington Metropolitan Area, regardless of race or sex. Even teenage employment in the Area is already unusually high. Potential for any additional labor force growth to fuel economic growth seems most promising in the District, but the concentration of elderly residents will likely preclude the City from achieving the high employment-to-population ratios already present in the suburbs and the Area. Any local expansion will have to focus on Area minorities and women, and perhaps youth in the District, as well as on older workers.

Selected Employment-To-Population Ratios



Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Areas

In June 1988, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 250 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. Historically, the Washington Area's jobless rate rises slightly between May and June. This June was no exception as the rate rose from 2.7 percent to 2.9 percent. The rate had declined 0.2 percentage point in February, March, and April, and was unchanged in May. This was the twenty-first lowest rate of all 250 areas reporting. A year ago, the rate was 3.3 percent.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 2.9 percent was lower than the Boston area's at 3.0 percent. This is the second time this year that the Area's rate has been lower than Boston's. In March, the Area rate was 2.9 percent and Boston's was 3.0 percent, same as June's. A year ago, the Boston rate was 2.7 percent. The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington had a June rate of 3.3 percent unchanged from May. This is only a fraction higher than the District rate. A year ago, the Richmond-Petersburg rate was 3.8 percent. The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, recorded a 5.0 percent jobless rate in June up from 4.5 percent posted in May. A year ago, the Baltimore rate was 4.6 percent.

States

When the District of Columbia (with a June preliminary unemployment rate of 5.2 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the twenty-fifth lowest jobless rate in the country. This was two notches below the May standing. Maryland's rate rose from 4.1 percent in May to 4.4 percent in June. Virginia's rate also rose, increasing from 3.6 percent to 3.8 percent. A year ago, Maryland's and Virginia's rates were 4.2 percent and 4.3 percent, respectively. Maryland and Virginia ranked thirty-second and thirty-seventh, respectively, in the standing of the 51 jurisdictions.

Of the states reporting over-the-year declines in unemployment rates for June, over half reported decreases of 1 percentage point or more. The largest drops were in Wyoming (2.9 percentage points), Mississippi (2.8 points), Alaska (2.3 points), and Louisiana (2.1 points).

Fifteen states had June unemployment rates below 4 percent, including all of the New England states. New Hampshire continued to have the nation's lowest unemployment rate—2.0 percent. Louisiana, at 10.5 percent, was the only state to have a rate in double digits. Three other states—New Mexico, Texas, and West Virginia had rates above 8 percent.

Cities

In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a June preliminary rate of 5.2 percent) was tied with Columbus, Ohio for the sixth lowest jobless rate. This was up one notch from the May standing. In June, the average unemployment rate of all 26 cities was 6.9 percent up from 6.5 percent in May. There were ten cities including the District of Columbia with rates below 6 percent. Baltimore's rate at 7.6 percent was up from the 6.9 percent reported in May. In June 1987, the Baltimore rate was 7.0 percent.

Detroit was the only city reporting a double digit unemployment rate at 10.6 percent. The next highest rate was 9.8 percent posted in New Orleans and 9.6 percent recorded in Gary. Since February, Boston, New York, and San Francisco have reported the lowest jobless rates of the selected cities. In June, the rates were 3.8

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

Unemployment Rates by State, June 1988

percent, 3.9 percent, and 4.6 percent, respectively. Salt Lake City posted a 4.9 percent jobless rate. Of the 26 selected central cities, twenty-two reported over-the-year declines, with the largest being posted by Gary (5.3 percent), followed by Houston (2.9 percent), Milwaukee (2.3 percent), and New York and Detroit (2.1 percent each). Both Boston and Baltimore reported a 0.6 percentage point over-the-year increase in joblessness.

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Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities*

	June 1988	June 1987
1. Boston, MA	3.8	3.2
2. New York, NY	3.9	6.0
3. San Francisco, CA	4.6	4.5
4. Salt Lake City, UT	4.9	6.4
5. Milwaukee, WI	5.1	7.4
6. Columbus, OH	5.2	6.1
7. District of Columbia	**5.2**	**6.3**
8. Buffalo, NY	5.6	6.6
9. Los Angeles, CA	5.7	6.4
10. Pittsburgh, PA	5.8	6.7
11. Miami, FL	6.2	7.0
12. Philadelphia, PA	6.8	7.0
13. Cincinnati, OH	7.1	8.0
14. Birmingham, AL	7.4	8.4
15. Dallas, TX	7.5	8.4
16. Baltimore, MD	7.6	7.0
17. Dayton, OH	7.8	9.5
18. Newark, NJ	7.9	9.0
19. St. Louis, MO	8.2	9.8
20. Alanta, GA	8.2	8.0
21. Houston, TX	8.2	11.1
22. Chicago, IL	8.3	8.9
23. Cleveland, OH	8.9	9.7
24. Gary, IN	9.6	14.9
25. New Orleans, LA	9.8	10.8
26. Detroit, MI	10.6	12.7

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

Unemployment Rates

Unemployment Insurance Activities July 1988

Claims for unemployment insurance benefits for former workers in the District of Columbia climbed to 3,310 in July 1988. This represents a 19 percent monthly increase from June 1988, and is primarily seasonal in nature. Effective with claims filed in July, a new base period for determining monetary benefits begins. Many claimants choose to wait until the change of the base period before filing for compensation because their base period for claims filed after July 1 has more earnings than the period for claims filed prior to July. The higher the earnings in a base period, the higher is the benefit entitlement. Claims filed in the month which begins a calendar quarter (and signals the beginning of a new base period) are usually higher than in other months. The July 1987 increase was 12 percent; and 21 percent, and 38 percent, respectively, in 1986 and 1985.

Other workload measures (weeks claimed and weeks compensated) dropped over the month—reflecting the overall downward trend in unemployment insurance activities. The total benefit outlay was also down from last month (-11 percent), and stood at $5.7 million this July.

The average weekly benefit amount paid in July was $187.64—less than half of a percent above last month. The July level is, as expected, higher than any month in the history of the program. The maximum weekly benefit amount, along with a higher scale of benefits, increased from $250 to $268, effective January 1988. Each month as exhaustees who were probably at the $250 maximum scale leave the program, and others enter on the $268 maximum scale, the average naturally rises. Added to that is the fact that the July entrants were at a higher base period and thus a slightly higher benefit level. The average is expected to increase gradually each month.

The outlay for benefits January through July this year is $43.2 million, at $183.13 per compensated week. At this point last year, the outlay was $46.4 million, averaging $176.80 per week. This is another indicator of the downward trend in activity. The higher average weekly payout did not offset the drop in weeks compensated, and thus the slump in total outlay. Since 1983, the unemployment rate has been steadily declining in the District of Columbia and the Metropolitan Area.

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Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15

Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
July 1988

	July 1988	June 1988	July 1987	% Change From June 1988	% Change From July 1987
State UI Program [a]					
Initial Claims Taken	3,309	2,752	3,352	+20.2	-1.3
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	30,208	33,299	34,530	-9.3	-12.5
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	28,194	31,758	33,108	-11.2	-14.8
Total Benefits Paid	$5,241,693	$5,890,979	$5,787,672	-11.0	-9.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$185.92	$185.50	$174.81	+0.2	+6.4
Number of First Payments	1,729	1,468	2,069	+17.8	-16.4
Number of Final Payments	761	924	968	-17.6	-21.4
Total Beneficiaries	8,448	8,409	9,423	+0.5	-10.3
Federal Program [b]					
Initial Claims Taken	119	108	113	+10.2	+5.3
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	1,942	2,104	2,373	-7.7	-18.2
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	1,836	2,012	2,416	-8.7	-24.0
Total Benefits Paid	$390,964	$418,037	$486,938	-6.5	-19.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$212.94	$207.77	$201.55	+2.5	+5.7
Number of First Payments	115	113	115	+1.8	+0.0
Number of Final Payments	48	53	80	-9.4	-40.0
Total Beneficiaries	534	528	664	+1.1	-19.6
Ex-Servicepersons Program [c]					
Initial Claims Taken	41	51	49	-19.6	-16.3
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	469	551	520	-14.9	-9.8
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	383	482	434	-20.5	-11.8
Total Benefits Paid	$74,141	$92,584	$82,538	-19.9	-10.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$193.58	$192.08	$190.18	+0.8	+1.8
Number of First Payments	29	46	44	-37.0	-34.1
Number of Final Payments	18	27	37	-33.3	-51.4
Total Beneficiaries	123	143	142	-14.0	-13.4
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	3,469	2,911	3,514	+19.2	-1.3
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	32,619	35,954	37,423	-9.3	-12.8
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	30,413	34,252	35,958	-11.2	-15.4
Total Benefits Paid	$5,706,798	$6,401,600	$6,357,148	-10.9	-10.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$187.64	$186.90	$176.79	+0.4	+6.1
Number of First Payments	1,873	1,627	2,228	+15.1	-15.9
Number of Final Payments	827	1,004	1,085	-17.6	-23.8
Total Beneficiaries	9,105	9,080	10,229	+0.3	-11.0

a. Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).
b. Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).
c. No joint claims.

The Washington, D.C. Area Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area rose 0.5 percent during the 2 months ended in July to a level of 120.7 (1982-84=100). For the 12-month period ended in July, the CPI-U rose 3.9 percent.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) also rose 0.5 percent from May to July. The July level of 119.9 (1982-84=100) was 4.0 percent higher than the index in July 1987.

In July, the local CPI-U index rose only 0.5 point, while nationally the index rose almost a full point (0.9). The over-the-year changes were more equal, 3.9 points locally and 4.1 points nationally.

Locally, the May-July CPI-U index showed an increase in 5 of the 7 components with the largest increase in other goods and services, food and beverage, and housing—2.5 points, 2.2 points, and 2.0 points, respectively. The two decreases were substantial, apparel and upkeep down by 8.7 points and entertainment down by 4.2 points.

Comparing the local CPI-U with the U.S. city average over the two-month period, prices of food and beverage, housing, other goods and services, and energy tended to increase relatively faster locally. On the other hand, apparel and upkeep, transportation, medical care, and entertainment tended to increase relatively faster nationally.

Washington, D.C.
Area Consumer Price Index
(All Urban Consumers—CPI-U)[a]

Expenditure Category	July 1988	Percent Change: 2 months Ago	Percent Change: Year Ago
All Items			
U.S.	118.5	+0.9	+4.1
Washington Area	120.7	+0.5	+3.9
Food & Beverage	120.5	+2.2	+5.3
Housing	124.7	+2.0	+5.0
Apparel & Upkeep	111.6	-8.7	-0.4
Transportation	107.9	+0.4	+0.7
Medical Care	137.9	+0.4	+7.5
Entertainment	122.1	-4.2	-1.2
Other Goods & Services	138.8	+2.5	+8.3
Special Index			
Energy[b]	89.5	+6.7	-0.4

a. 1982-84=100, except as noted.

b. June 1978=100

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; table prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff.

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Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for the month of July 1988 fell $1.27. Average Weekly Hours declined 0.5 hour. Average Hourly Earnings rose 11 cents.

In the Durable Goods sector, Electric Machinery, Equipment and Supplies registered a decrease in Weekly Earnings of $11.82 as Weekly Hours declined 1.2 hours due to less overtime being worked. Less overtime was also responsible for declines in Weekly Earnings of $10.11 and $6.71, respectively, in Stone, Clay and Glass Products and Other Durable Goods.

In the Non-Durable Goods sector, overtime being worked in other Non-Durable Goods and Printing and Publishing resulted in increases in Hourly Earnings of 32 and 19 cents, respectively. Reflecting the higher Hourly Earnings, Weekly Earnings in Other Non-Durable Goods rose $7.36 while in Printing and Publishing, Weekly Earnings increased $4.17.

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
July 1988

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July 1988	June 1988	July 1987	July 1988	June 1988	July 1987	July 1988	June 1988	July 1987
Total Manufacturing	444.09	445.36	413.40	39.3	39.8	39.0	11.30	11.19	10.60
Durable Goods	445.05	454.07	391.68	41.4	42.2	40.8	10.75	10.76	9.60
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	502.19	512.30	456.30	46.2	47.0	45.0	10.87	10.90	10.14
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	479.91	491.73	403.30	41.3	42.5	39.5	11.62	11.57	10.21
Other Durable Goods	408.22	414.93	364.99	40.1	40.6	40.6	10.18	10.22	8.99
Non-Durable Goods	442.93	438.88	432.00	37.6	37.9	37.5	11.78	11.58	11.52
Food & Kindred Products	430.73	433.74	450.76	38.7	38.9	38.2	11.13	11.15	11.80
Printing & Publishing	473.38	469.21	454.86	35.7	35.9	36.1	13.26	13.07	12.60
Other Non-Durable Goods	355.21	347.85	351.46	42.9	43.7	41.3	8.28	7.96	8.51

Total Production Workers	July '88	June '88	July '87
	42,800	42,500	43,000

Note: Data reflects Revision to 1987 Benchmark.

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